

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: _____ N. _____

Date: September 22, 2004

Topic: First Review of Cut Scores for Praxis I Proposed by the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL) Based on the Re-Validation and Standard-Setting Study Conducted on July 22, 2004

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Origin:

_____ Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

x Board review required by

x State or federal law or regulation

_____ Board of Education regulation

_____ Other: _____

_____ Action requested at this meeting x Action requested at future meeting: _____ (date)

Previous Review/Action:

_____ No previous board review/action

_____ Previous review/action

date

action

Background Information:

The 1980 session of the General Assembly mandated that the Board of Education identify and recommend an assessment for beginning teachers. On July 1, 1980, the Board of Education instituted a requirement that all beginning teachers applying for initial licensure submit scores for the National Teacher Examinations (NTE). In 1981 the board authorized validation and standard-setting studies for the NTE to determine passing scores for initial licensure of entry-level teachers. From July 1, 1981, until June 30, 1986, applicants were required to take the NTE to receive a license. Qualifying scores were established and, effective July 1, 1986, each beginning teacher was required to submit passing scores for each of the three Core Battery tests (General Knowledge, Communication Skills, and Professional Knowledge) and the Specialty Area test in his/her teaching area. From 1981 to 1996 the prescribed assessment was the NTE.

The Educational Testing Service (ETS) introduced in the fall of 1993 a new generation of teacher assessments, The Praxis Series: Professional Assessments for Beginning TeachersTM. The Praxis Series replaced the NTE as the standard examinations used in the process for licensing teachers. The Praxis Series provides a continuum of assessments from entry into a teacher preparation program to actual practice in the classroom.

Standard-setting and validation studies for Praxis I were conducted on May 4 and 5, 1994, by ETS in coordination with the Virginia Department of Education. Thirty-three panelists participated in the studies. The panel of Virginia educators considered the Praxis I Mathematics, Reading, and Writing tests. Based on the validation and standard-setting panels, the following scores were recommended: Reading: 176; Writing: 173; and Mathematics: 175.

At its October 26, 1995, meeting the Board of Education selected passing scores one and a half to two SEMS (Standard Error of Measurement) above the study panel for the Praxis I PPST (Pre-Professional Skills Tests) and approved the following passing scores for Virginia:

Reading:	178
Writing:	176
Mathematics:	178

These scores established by the Board of Education continue to be the highest qualifying scores for Praxis I among states (and the District of Columbia, Virgin Islands, Guam, and the Department of Defense Dependent Schools) using this assessment. The board approved the use of Praxis I and II tests; however, Praxis III was not adopted for statewide use.

On April 26, 2001, the Board of Education approved a policy allowing a composite score to satisfy the Praxis I requirement. Individuals may meet the Praxis I assessment requirement by achieving the scores established by the Board of Education on October 26, 1995, on each of the three Praxis I tests – Writing, Reading, and Mathematics – or by achieving an established composite score on all three tests. The qualifying scores for each of the individual tests and the composite score for the PPST are as follows:

VIRGINIA'S PRAXIS QUALIFYING SCORES				
<u>Praxis I</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Writing</u>	<u>Mathematics</u>	<u>Composite Score</u>
PPST	178	176	178	532

On March 24, 2004, the Board of Education approved the use of the SAT® as a substitute test for Praxis I (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics) required for initial licensure. The board approved a score of **1000** on the SAT, taken prior to April 1, 1995, with at least **450** on the verbal and **510** on the mathematics tests or a score of **1100** on the SAT, taken after April 1, 1995, with at least **530** on the verbal and **530** on the mathematics tests as a substitute for Praxis I. The SAT® was approved as a substitute test only for Praxis I; individuals also must meet the Praxis II (subject area assessment) for initial licensure.

Currently, 28 states, the Department of Defense Dependents Schools, the Virgin Islands, the District of Columbia, and Guam use Praxis I as a requirement for licensure. Cut scores for the Praxis states are as follows:

PRAXIS I: ACADEMIC SKILLS ASSESSMENTS

PRE-PROFESSIONAL SKILLS TEST: MATHEMATICS (0730)

COMPUTERIZED PPST: MATHEMATICS (5730)

AK – 173	AR - 171	CT - 171	DE - 174	DC - 174
GA - 176b	IN - 175	KY - 173	LA - 170	
ME - c	MD - *	MN - 171	MS - 169	MT - 170
NE – 171	NV - 172	NH - 172	NC - 173	ND - 170
OH - 172	OK - 171	OR - 175	PA - 173	SC - 172
TN - 173	VT - 175h	VA - 178g	VI - 170	WV - 172
WI - 173	DODDS - 175		GUAM*	

PRE-PROFESSIONAL SKILLS TEST: READING (0710)

COMPUTERIZED PPST: READING (5710)

AK - 175	AR – 172	CT - 172	DE - 175	DC - 172
GA - 176b	IN - 176	KY - 173	LA - 172	
ME - c	MD - *	MN - 173	MS – 170	MT - 170
NE – 170	NV - 174	NH - 174	NC - 176	ND - 173
OH - 173	OK - 173	OR - 174	PA - 172	SC - 175
TN - 174	VT - 177h	VA – 178g	VI - 175	WV - 174
WI - 175	DODDS - 177		GUAM*	

PRE-PROFESSIONAL SKILLS TEST: WRITING (0720)

COMPUTERIZED PPST: WRITING (5720)

AK - 174	AR - 173	CT – 171	DE – 173	DC - 171
GA - 174b	IN - 172	KY - 172	LA - 171	
ME - c	MD - *	MN - 172	MS - 172	MT - 170
NE - 172	NV - 172	NH - 172	NC - 173	ND - *
OH - 172	OK – 172	OR – 171	PA - 173	SC - 173
TN - 173	VT - 174h	VA – 176g	VI - 174	WV - 172
WI - 174	DODDS - 174		GUAM*	

NOTES

*=Test required—passing score not set

b = GEORGIA Notes

GA Initial Licensure (all areas) requires (1) achieving a combined total score of 964 for all three CBT tests OR (2) meeting the passing score of 321 on CBT: Mathematics (0731), meeting the passing score of 322 on CBT: Reading (0711) and meeting the passing score of 321 on CBT: Writing (0721), OR (3) achieving a combined total score of 526 for all three PPST tests, OR (4) meeting the passing score of 176 on PPST or CPPST: Mathematics (0730, 5730), meeting the passing score of 176 on PPST or CPPST: Reading (0710, 5710) and meeting the passing score of 174 on PPST or CPPST: Writing (0720, 5720). There are no minimum scores.

c = MAINE Notes

All Areas, K–12 (except Vocational Education) require Praxis I CPPST or PPST scores.

(5710, 0710) CPPST/PPST Reading —176; (5720, 0720) CPPST/PPST Writing —175; (5730, 0730) CPPST/PPST Mathematics —175

Vocational Education requires Praxis I CPPST or PPST scores.

(0710) PPST Reading —173; (0720) PPST Writing —168; (0730) PPST Mathematics —172.

g= VIRGINIA Notes

VA Initial Licensure (all areas) requires either (1) achieving a combined total score of 973 for all three CBT tests or (2) meeting the passing score of 323 on CBT: Mathematics (0731), meeting the passing score of 326 on CBT: Reading (0711) and meeting the passing score of 324 on CBT: Writing (0721), **OR** (1) achieving a combined total score of 532 for all three PPST or CPPST tests or by (2) meeting the passing score of 178 on PPST or CPPST: Mathematics (0730, 5730), meeting the passing

score of 178 on PPST or CPPST: Reading (0710, 5710) and meeting the passing score of 176 on PPST or CPPST: Writing (0720, 5720). There are no minimum scores.

h= VERMONT Notes

VT Initial Licensure (all areas) requires either (1) achieving a combined total score of 526 for all three PPST or CPPST tests or (2) meeting the passing score of 175 on PPST or CPPST: Mathematics (0730, 5730), meeting the passing score of 177 on PPST or CPPST: Reading (0710, 5710), meeting the passing score of 174 on PPST or CPPST: Writing (0720, 5720). There are no minimum scores.

Summary of Major Elements:

Following a report from the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure on January 7, 2004, the Board of Education requested the Department of Education to conduct a review of the Praxis I scores for Virginia. The Praxis I scores had not been reviewed since the establishment of passing scores in 1995, with an effective implementation date of July 1, 1996.

In response to the request, 14 panelists were selected by the Department of Education to participate in the Praxis I Score Review held Friday, April 2, 2004, at the Marriott Richmond West Hotel. The majority of the panelists were teachers with less than five years of teaching experience. Panelists were representative of Virginia educators in terms of endorsement areas, teaching levels, gender, ethnicity, and geographic regions within the state. The panel included representatives from schools of education in institutions of higher education, the Virginia Community College System, a school division human resources office, and the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure. Ms. Ella Gaal, Regional Director for Educational Testing Service, conducted the Praxis I Score Review.

Even though less than half of the panel members recommended a new validation and standard-setting study for the Praxis I Reading test, the majority of the panel members recommended validation and standard-setting studies to be conducted for the mathematics and writing tests. This recommendation was based primarily on the fact that studies used to establish current scores for Virginia were completed 10 years ago.

On July 22, 2004, a Praxis I Re-validation and Standard-Setting Study was held in Richmond, Virginia. Twenty panelists representing Virginia educators in terms of endorsement areas, teaching levels, gender, ethnicity, and geographic regions within the state were convened for the study conducted by the Educational Testing Service. Attached is a copy of the study. The recommended study values for the Praxis I assessments based on the Re-validation and Standard-Setting Study are as follows:

Reading:	172
Writing:	177
Mathematics:	175

The Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL) reviewed the Re-validation and Standard-Setting Study. The advisory board met on September 13, 2004, and recommended to the Board of Education the following cut scores for Praxis I:

Reading	178
Writing:	177
Mathematics:	<u>175</u>
Composite:	530

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education receive for first review ABTEL's proposed cut scores for Praxis I.

Impact on Resources: N/A

Timetable for Further Review/Action: This item will be presented for final review to the Board of Education at a future date.